

Newsletter

of the
**Northern Ireland
Daffodil Group**



Half-yearly publication of the
Northern Ireland Daffodil Group

NOVEMBER '95
ISSUE

System of Classification

1. The classification of a daffodil cultivar will be that which is submitted by the person registering the cultivar, or will be based on the description and measurements submitted by such person.

2. The classification will consist of a division number and a colour code (for example, 1Y-Y, 2YW-Y, 3W-WWR, or 4Y-O).

3. The numbered divisions in which a daffodil cultivar may be placed are defined on inside back cover.

4. Measurements taken in determining between Divisions 1, 2 and 3 will be those of the flower at maturity. The length of the perianth segments is the measurement from the tip of one segment when flattened out to the base of the corona. The length of the corona is the measurement from the base of the perianth segments to the furthest margin of the corona.

5. a) The colours and equivalent code letters which may be used to describe a daffodil cultivar will be those of the flower at maturity. They are:

White or Whitish	W
Green	G
Yellow	Y
Pink	P
Orange	O
Red	R

In distinguishing Orange from Red in daffodil classification, borderline colours including and on the yellow side of RHS Orange Group 29 are said to be Orange; those including and on the purple side of Orange-Red Group 30 are Red.

b) The colour code will consist of two letters or two groups of letters separated by a hyphen: the letter(s) before the hyphen will describe the perianth segments (the "petals"); the letter(s) following the hyphen will describe the corona (the "trumpet" or "cup").

c) For purposes of description the perianth segments will be divided into three zones: outer zone, mid-zone and base; and the corona into three zones: eye zone, mid-zone and rim.

d) If the perianth segments are substantially of a single colour, a single code letter will describe them; if they are of more than one colour, either two or three code letters will be used, describing the outer zone before the mid-zone and/or base.

e) If the corona is substantially of a single colour, a single code will describe it; if it is of more than one colour, three code letters will be used, describing the eye-zone before the mid-zone and rim.

f) In double daffodils the code letter(s) before the hyphen will describe not only the perianth segments but also any extra perianth segments (being of the same colour), even if they are interspersed with the corona at the centre of the flower; the code letter(s) following the hyphen will describe the corona or the segments of the corona. Multiple letters before or after the hyphen will in doubles as in all other daffodils indicate that there is more than one colour from outer zone to base of the perianth segments or from eye zone to rim of the corona or the segments of the corona.

Continued inside back cover

THE NORTHERN IRELAND DAFFODIL GROUP NEWSLETTER

VOL 4 NO. 7

NOVEMBER 1995

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Since I was elected to this high office last January I have developed a better appreciation of the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to keep the organisation running.

My sincere thanks to Richard McCaw for stepping into the breach and taking on the arduous task of secretary with such efficiency. The whole Group is deeply indebted to him. My thanks to Jack Carlisle for managing our finances so carefully and well. Our committee also have done all that is required of them to keep the Group functioning satisfactorily.

It is very encouraging to see fresh young faces at our meetings - we should encourage them to encourage their friends to join. Bigger doesn't always mean better in daffodils but I'm sure it does describing membership!

Our secretary's report penned in June looked forward to our summer and autumn functions, and these have now taken place.

It is with the greatest sincerity that I thank Maurice and Heather Kerr for once again hosting a very successful barbeque. They had their garden in superb form, provided food of excellent quality and arranged for the weather to be perfect. The only disappointment was that more of our members should have been there to enjoy it.

Not having been at our Lily Show at John McAusland's in August I cannot comment other than it was reported as being successful.

The September and October meetings as far as I was concerned were very interesting. The first as well as running our bulb ballot, was addressed by member Joe Kennedy. Being an expert on raising primroses he gave an excellent talk illustrated with slides on the subject. The second which included our bulb auction, was devoted to a talk with slides by Brian Duncan on raising daffodils. We got much information on the work he has done, the percentage success achieved, the need to set objectives, and the care required

to produce show blooms.

Of course before all these events we had the show we regard as our Group's. I refer to the City of Belfast Spring Show which they run but we manage. I say this because more than two thirds of the show - apart from the trade stands - is centered on daffodils. Again it was an outstanding success, and I thank most sincerely all who had a hand in this: our delegates to the organising committee, our judges, our stewards and of course our many exhibitors.

On the Saturday night we again held a Show dinner where we could entertain our visiting judges. This was a very pleasant evening but could have been better supported by our members.

I was pleased to see Robin Reade attending our meetings, and taking such an interest in our activities.

With such a satisfactory year drawing to a close I look forward with anticipation to next year; and because of the closeness of Christmas I wish you all the compliments of the season.

W. J. E. DUKELOW

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Secretary's Report July 95

I have just finished my first six months as secretary and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and guided me in the right direction.

The Belfast show was once again well supported by the daffodil exhibitors. Entries were up again on last year with the Amateur section having the highest number. In the Championship of Ireland classes which required 12 varieties there were 19 entries in total. We will have to look at the allocation of space for each class next year in light of the interest being taken by the exhibitors. John McAusland took on the daunting task this year of overseeing our display table at the show and as you can imagine with exhibitors being very busy staging their blooms, it was a last minute rush for flowers to be staged by too few people. It was unfortunate that more people could not be motivated enough to make this a display to be proud of.

The Belfast Show dinner, was for me the highlight of the three days. Our foreign and UK. visitors gave us short talk about themselves. Stephen Vinisky our main speaker kept us entranced by his humorous and informative talk and I am still trying to work out how you 'burp' a daffodil.

May I also take this opportunity to say thanks to all those who responded to requests or volunteered awards for the show - it made my life much easier.

The Late show was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nial Watson on the shores of Strangford Lough. This was a beautiful spring day and was complemented by the hospitality we all enjoyed. The show report is contained elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Talking about reports our thanks go to John who took on the onerous task of show reporter once again which he reports on in depth.

As I finish these remarks we are in the middle of our summer socialising at Maurice's house for our June barbeque and soon to visit John's for our Lily Show.

Do not forget that your committee has worked hard arranging a full programme of events for the Autumn and winter months and they look forward to your support in attending these events.

Richard McCaw

28/1/96
N.I.D.G Annual General Meeting 3.00pm in Ballance House.

1996 SHOW DATES

NORTHERN IRELAND

N.I.D.G. Early Show	31st March	Ballance House
HILLSBOROUGH	20 6 th April	
COLERAINE	6th April	
BANGOR	13th April	
ENNISKILLEN	13th April	Silver Thread Award
DERRY and DISTRICT	13th April	
BALLYMENA	13 20 th April	
BELFAST	27/28th April	Maysfield Leisure Centre - Gilbert Andrews Trophy
OMAGH	4th May	
N.I.D.G. Late Show	12th May	at Brian Duncan's

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

SOUTH COUNTY DUBLIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
30th March in the Town Hall Dalkey.
R.H.S.I. SPRING SHOW 13th April in Taney Church Hall,
Dundrum.

R.H.S. LONDON

EARLY DAFFODIL COMPETITION	12th March
DAFFODIL SHOW	16/17th April
LONDON COMPETITION	30th April / 1st May

NORTHERN IRELAND SHOW REPORT

Another challenging year; the early part of the 1994/5 winter was even milder than the previous one, resulting in even more advanced growth by late January. However by mid February the blast returned - snow - frost and most damaging of all a series of cold biting north and east winds that brought growth to a grinding halt. Such conditions tested the skill and dedication of our exhibitors to the utmost and it said much for their efforts that even the earliest shows were well supported by very high class entries.

EARLY SHOW - Sunday 26th March

As last year the event was held in Ballance House, the surroundings of which seem to encourage good 'crack' and a convivial atmosphere although the number of cultivars exhibited was less than previous years.

Young Ian Scroggy from Glenarm repeated his 1994 performance by winning Best Bloom in Show with a well presented Honeybird as well as taking the red ticket in Division 1 and the 4 to 12 class with Empress of Ireland and Bittern respectively.

Jimmy Smith, another young member from Dromore gained first place in Division 3 with a very early Perimeter, Sam Jordan exhibited an impressive Loch Owskeich in the Division 2 class while Nial Watson's Bryanston also won.

Brian Duncan exhibited a well balanced entry of seven miniatures in a single vase while Kate Reade gained first and second places in the 'Three to a vase' with Dove Wings and Jenny respectively. Surely it's time we all paid a lot more attention to these elegant beauties: not just by exhibiting them but including them in our breeding programmes.

HILLSBOROUGH SHOW - Saturday 1st April

Our first public show of the season and considering the very late season, the benches were reasonably well filled.

Brian Duncan won the Open Section 'Collection of 12 varieties'; It was refreshing to observe that he rejected the usual Division 1 to 4 syndrome in favour of the remaining divisions. Eleven out of the twelve blooms were from divisions 5 to 12 and included Tuggles - 8YR, Explosion 8YO and seedling no.1406 - 6YY. Richard McCaw's entry was placed second, Sun City and Loch Hope being his most impressive blooms. Miss Diana Bell's many entries enriched the Senior section, with her Purbeck being declared the 'Best Bloom in Show'. Diana seems to have discovered a method of growing Foundling better than the rest of us; for the second year running her entry was declared the 'Best Bloom - Division 5 - 9' and with the very deep but bright shade of pink in the cup that I remarked on last year.

Most of us keep a 'sharp eye' out for new seedlings; Sir Frank Harrison's 2WW (Churchman x April Love) cross and Derek Turbett's seedling No. 9401 -1YY (Artic Gold x St. Keverne) - impressed. However it is nice to see reasonably priced 'Golden Oldies' among the prizewinners; Ian Scroggy's Honeybird (Best Bloom Division 1), Sam Jordan's Torridon (Best Bloom Division 2) and Diana's Golden Aura and Fair Prospect could have successfully competed in any show.

ENNISKILLEN - Saturday 8th April

It is a long way to Enniskillen but always a most enjoyable journey. The first class road system uncluttered by heavy traffic, the beautiful scenery enroute and the soothing sight of the shimmering waters of Lough Erne made the miles fly by.

There were no entries in the Open section and the Senior section was very sparsely filled but this was the most encouraging show I visited this year. How Come? After many years of very few entries in the Intermediate and Novice sections, this year both

sections were packed to the capacity of their allocated spaces. Many of the exhibits consisted of very old cultivars, some guidance in the dressing and staging of blooms would have been helpful but the reborn interest in the growing and exhibiting of daffodils was evident and can be built on in future years.

John Ennis and Sam Dukelow dominated the prize list in the Senior section; John won the collection class for 9 blooms with the 'golden oldie' Akela - 1YY his most outstanding bloom. He also exhibited 'Best Bloom in Show'; a superb example of Chief Inspector, the perianth of which was unusually smooth and without a 'cockle' in the top major petal so often encountered. Sam Dukelow now restricts his entries to his own seedlings; his Easter Moon cross and also his Knowehead cross stood comparison with recent introductions from more established hybridisers. It is difficult to produce reasonably identical blooms for the three to a vase classes but John Ennis's Kings Grove were well nigh perfect; his Perky 6 WY won the division 6 class and had the additional advantage of being delightfully scented.

As I have already indicated the Intermediate and Novice sections were well supported. First and second places in the 6 Bloom class were won Mrs. W Wilkinson. The entries of Mr. P Woods, Mrs. S McBrien, Cannon A.H and Mrs. Northridge, Mrs. June McIlpatrick and Mrs. M. Hurst were notable in the Intermediate section as were the blooms of Mr.N. Thompson, Mr.V. Wilson Mr. Brian Donaldson and Mr. Edward Bruce in the Novice section.

A most reinvigorated show and not just in the daffodil sections; I noted the large increase in the flower arrangement classes - all of them beautiful and to a high technical standard. I'm sure the appointment of Mrs. V. Wilson as the new Chairperson has something to do with it.

BANGOR- Saturday / Sunday 8 / 9th April

More enterprise! A new venue- (the Bangor Leisure Centre) and a full 2 day show. Again many of the prizewinners were older varieties with exceptional examples of Broomhill, Comal, Purbeck and Newcastle etc. on display.

The Hillsborough roving 'mafia' were there in strength and were successful in many of the classes. The battle for Best Bloom was between classical examples of Purbeck, Sam Jordans just pipping Robbie Curry's at the winning post with the latter being awarded the reserve accolade. Kate Reade took top placing in the Collection of Twelve with Robbie Curry in second place and being the best amateur entry in this class, collected the Daffodil Cup for his efforts. Richard McCaw gained the Mary Maguire Cup for most points in the Senior section. At all our shows most of the doubles - (Division 4) - on display lack both the overall size and very lightly filled centres; Richard McCaw's Crackington could not be faulted on either score. Richard's Comal in the 1YY class was outstanding both for size and smoothness of perianth. Sam Jordan who won this round of the Silver Thread Trophy included a very good example of Park Springs.

Each one of us grow a few cultivars year after year to a much higher standard than our peers; Jack Carlisle's Broomhill s always seem to have the edge over other exhibitors entries and in both the three to a vase and the single bloom classes were no exception.

The entries in the Intermediate and the Novice sections were most encouraging, both in the number and quality. Philip Wallace took top place in the Nine Bloom Collection Class - winning the R. D. Ferris Cup. His entry included good examples of Loch Alsh and Bryanston, the latter being judged Best Bloom in this section. Second place in this class went to Nial Watson who also collected the Spring Cup for most points in this section. Nial's Dr. Hugh in class 47 was particularly large and smooth for this cultivar. James Smyth from Banbridge and Ian Scroggy from

Glenarm dominated the Novice section with the former being awarded the Novice Cup for the highest points in this section.

COLERAINE - Saturday 15th April

Richard McCaw won the Collection of 9 class which included a very well presented Watership Down which was also Best Bloom in Show. Derek Turbitt was successful in this round of the Gilbert Andrews Trophy, his entry being mostly of his own seedlings, one of which a 2YY Golden Joy x Golden Aura cross was his most notable. Philip Wallace won the awards for both the Collection of 6 Blooms and the highest points in the Intermediate section, while Robert Martin of Portadown collected the Novice Championship which included an excellent bloom of Viking. Ian Erskine came all the way from Dublin to exhibit, among other well finished cultivars, a very nice Cupids Eye.

BELFAST - Saturday / Sunday 22nd / 23rd April

A very successful show; the benches were well filled with high quality blooms in terms of form, smoothness and colour but generally on the small side for the cultivars concerned although there was the odd exception.

It was refreshing to note that a Division 3 cultivar won 'Best Bloom in Show' although in the end it was a close contest. The ten judges were equally divided in their preference between Brian Duncan's seedling no. 1577 3Y-GYO and Derek Turbitt's seedling no. 9409 2Y-R; after further close inspection and intense debate the award eventually went to Brian's entry. Both blooms were technically perfect but the best bloom having exceptionally pleasing colour combination. Each year there is always one exhibit which lingers long in my mind's eye. This year it was a group of twelve vases; Brian Duncan had entered, side by side four separate exhibits in the Division 6, Three Vases, Three blooms in each. All were beautiful with Lilac Charm - (still closest to the original species), Prototype- 6Y- GPP , Invocation - (the first 6Y-P I've

seen) and Tiger Moth (a most distinct colour contrast) - were particularly eye-catching.

As usual I made a 'beeline' for the 'Open 12' and was not disappointed as all the exhibits were of a very high standard. Brian Duncan took the premier award with a very well balanced collection, his most outstanding blooms being seedling no. 1577 - 3Y-GYO (Best Bloom in Show) and a 1Y-Y seedling no. 925 - very symmetrical and smooth (I remember seeing the latter at the Late show some years ago at Clarke Campbell's). Sandy McCabe's second placed entry contained good examples of 'Golden Oldies' Colourful and Silver Surf both well up to size and the former having a very smooth perianth. Kate Reade's entry included seedling no. 7/24/85 - 1Y-Y very smooth and with a long straight trumpet while T. R. Eakin's Altun Ha was very large for the cultivar. Brian won the class for the American raised cultivars but I was also impressed by Mrs. S. H. Koonce's (West Virginia) - second placed entry which included New Day and Halltown. Derek Turbitt was successful in both the Gilbert Andrews Trophy - his best bloom being a nicely coloured Golden Amber - and in the Guy Wilson Trophy class for a collection of white daffodils. I'm still searching for a 4Y-O to the current standard of the best of the 4 W-Pinks. We are not there yet but Brian's seedling No. 1307 is another step along the way. There are many good 1Y-Y's already but Sir Frank Harrison's seedling No. 87/1Y-Y/ORX impressed me. The 3W class attracted nine entries, Brian's Ridgecrest just pipping Sir Frank's Misty Dawn at the post. Kate Reade won both the division eight class with Hoopoe and the division eleven with Moon Dragon - 11 Y-O. If proof was required that interest in growing good daffodils spans the world then Mrs. Mary Koonce (West Virginia) and Mrs. McMullan (Larne, Northern Ireland) would have provided it with their entries in the miniature section. The class for three to a vase was won by Mrs. Koonce with Sun Disc while third place went to Mrs. McMullan with Bulbocodium Conspicuous. Mrs. Koonce also lifted second and third in the single

bloom class with Little Soldier and Lauralee.

Senior Section

Richard McCaw won the senior ' 12' class with an attractive collection, Auntie Gilen (2- W-GWP) and Dunley Hall being his most notable cultivars. Maurice Kerr was placed second and Sam Jordan third. Ian Erskine's entry was enhanced by a very striking Moon Rhythm seedling of his own raising. The ' Three to a Vase' classes were well supported, with Derek Turbitt having a field day coming first in the classes for division 2, division 3, the Y-W class and, as usual in division 6. One of his Lilac Charms in the last mentioned division was awarded the W. J. Toal Award for best division 5 to 9. Richard McCaw took the red sticker in the division nine class and was also awarded the T. Bloomer award for the same exhibit. Sam Jordan's 2W-P seedlings set had very good colour contrast.

In the single bloom classes I particularly admired T . R . Eakin's Royal Marine and Satin Doll- (very large for this cultivar but still elegant). Richard McCaw staged a 6Y-Y Brian Duncan seedling No. 1257 - large for the type and with good even colour throughout. Nial Watson showed what can be done with now reasonably priced Avalon while Maurice Kerr's Bailey was a bit on the small size but very highly coloured. Mary Koonce from West Virginia exhibited Intrigue, Radiant Gem and Explosion in the Division Seven and Eight classes and won prizes for all of them. I also admired her Kendane Head entry in the Division Nine class. Considering the distance involved she must be congratulated on her achievement. Maurice Kerr was awarded the Brian Duncan Prize for highest number of points in the Senior Section.

Novice Section

The best supported and most competitive Section of any of the shows in the Province. Some of the more successful of this year's exhibitors will be moved up to the Senior Section in future years, most of the remainder could also hold their own in that same section.

Robbie Curry won the Novice Championship and was awarded the McQuaid Cup for his efforts. His exhibit included Best Division 4 bloom in the Show, a beautifully finished Dorchester. Philip Wallace's twelve was placed second and included the rarely exhibited Twicer. Nial Watson occupied third place. His Gold Convention being very smooth and well balanced. N. Thompson's-(Omagh) entry included a well finished Misty Glen and James Smyth entry was enhanced with a very colourful Creagh Dubh. The remaining classes in this Section were all very well supported most had at least 10 entries. The following were the most keenly contested:-

Class 77	Division 1 Y-Y	28 entries
Class 84	Division 2Y-R	20 "
Class 85	Division 2W-CC	23 "
Class 91	Division 6	20 "
Class 94	Pink Cup	20 "

David Crawford , Robbie Curry and Philip Wallace were the most successful in these classes with Nial Watson and James Smyth also among the prize winners. David's best exhibits were Jumbo Gold, Newcastle and a very attractive Stainless. Robbie's Triple Crown was small but very smooth and symmetrical and his Bossa Novas won both first and second places in their class. Philip Wallace exhibited Comal in the three to a vase class which were well up to size and of good colour. The colour contrast of Nial's Notre Dame and La Vella were more pronounced than usual and James Smyth's Gracious Lady was indeed gracious. A new exhibitor- Mrs A. Bonugli of Larne was awarded second place in the unnamed seedling class.

BALLYMENA - Saturday 28th. April

The benches were reasonably well filled but again the cultivars were small.

OPEN

Sandy McCabe won Best Bloom in Show with Colourful which he had included in his prize winning twelve collection. All his cultivars in this exhibit were very smooth and being well up to size with Achduart and Loch Lundie particularly so. Carncairn, who were awarded second place included two seedlings - 32/8/76 - 1Y-Y and 16/11/82 2W-P both of which had good smooth perianths, although the pink cup of the latter was a bit on the pale side.

Robbie Curry's blooms in his third placed entry were notable, against the trend, were both smooth and well up to size. Carncairn won both the American Daffodil Society's and the six varieties x three blooms in each and included a very colourful 2Y-R-seedling no. 19/3/82 in the latter. In the single bloom classes Nial Watson's Notre Dame and Robbie Curry's Goldfinger stood out from the rest of the exhibits. Nial's Notre Dame was the best pink I have seen this year, confirming my own opinion that it is still the best cultivar available in this division.

SENIOR

Richard McCaw continued his winning ways by winning the collection of nine class, which included the best Mentor I have seen for many years. Sandy McCabe came second and as in his Belfast entry, his best blooms were Colourful and Silver Surf. The most outstanding vases in the Three to a vase class were Sandy's own 2Y-R seedling S3 and , of course, Derek Turbitt's Lilac Charm.

Single Classes.

These classes interested me for two reasons. Firstly Jim Davidson of Brauff, Scotland not only attended this show

but also entered exhibits and to good effect too winning five prizes. Secondly, Philip Wallace did not wait to be moved to the Senior Section and was successful in winning six prizes including three firsts. Sam Jordan exhibited a Brian Duncan seedling No. 1150 in the pink cup class.

Novice Classes.

Noel Thompson of Omagh swept the board in this section winning all eight classes. Both in the collection of six and three to a vase classes, his Cool Crystals would have stood a good chance of being prize winners in the Senior Section. Class 56 was confined to exhibitors who had received bulbs free of charge from Mrs. K. Reade and was won by Mrs. Iris Rainey of Ahoghill.

OMAGH Saturday 6th May

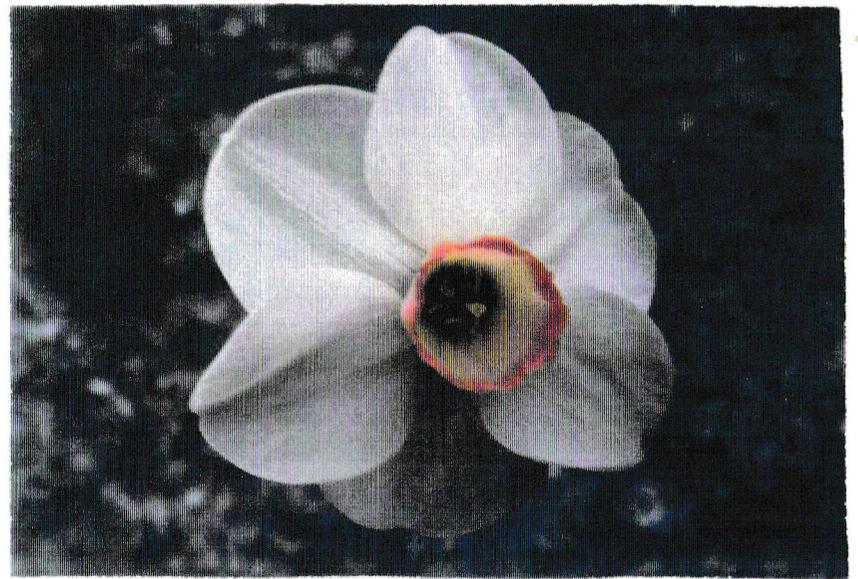
Our final public show of the season and as always a mecca for the keen daffodil exhibitor.

OPEN CLASSES

This round of the Gilbert Andrews Memorial prize was won by Derek Turbitt and it was interesting to observe that instead of sticking to the Division one to four syndrome, he included a division nine - Poet's Way - in his exhibit. Brian Duncan's collection of twelve is difficult to beat anywhere but no more so than on his own home ground. He was of course successful in winning this class for which the Dr. Hugh Watson Memorial Trophy is awarded. Most outstanding cultivars in his winning exhibit was Ahwanee and Piraeus. The latter having more fullness than I can ever get it. Best bloom in show, Cupid's Eye, came from Brian's second entry. Richard McCaw's entry was placed second. His Purbeck and BrightSpark caught my eye. Maurice Kerr's third placed entry was enriched by a very smooth and large Mentor. Kate Reade's entry included a 3W-GWW, Knocklayde, "which was new to me" and repeated her Ballymena success by winning the American class. The six vases x three blooms in each is always a difficult class and although the number of entries were down on previous years the quality of all the exhibits was high. Brian won



Steve Vinisky presenting Secretary Richard McCaw with the Amateur Championship of Ireland award.



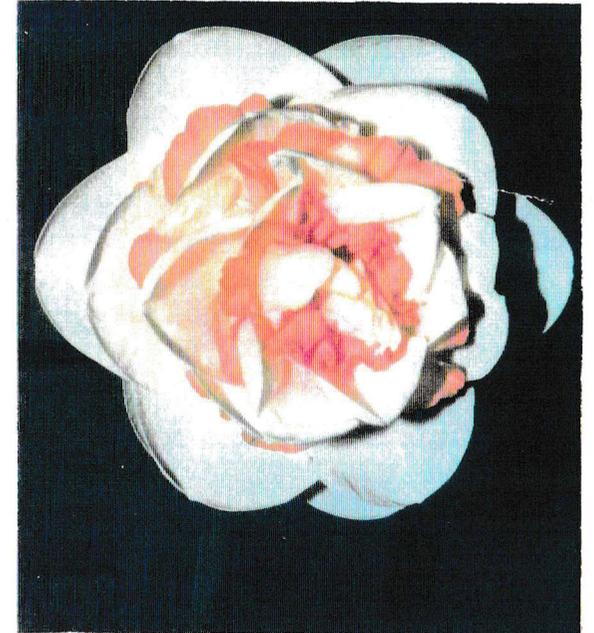
Best bloom at N.I.D.G. late show Robert Curry's "Notre Dame"



Best bloom at Belfast 1995 Brian Duncan seedling No. 1577



Brian Duncan's winning Championship of Ireland entry
 Goldfinger Dorchester State Express Predator
 June Lake 1577 1469 Gold Bond
 925 Ridgecrest 1598 Crimson Chalice



Best Div.4 at Belfast, Dorchester exhibited by Novice Robert Curry

a first and second place using Naivasha and Cupid's Eye while Richard McCaw took the Blue Ticket by including division three Gransha. The miniature and the species section was dominated by two exhibitors- Pat McDevitt won the vase of three with Hawera and Sam Dukelow who swept the board in the remaining three classes , in which he included a very dainty Jonquilla seedling.

SENIOR SECTION

The most outstanding cultivar in Sandy McCabe's winning collection of nine exhibit was Elven Lady, which was both technically perfect and beautiful, a combination not always obvious in the rimmed pinks. Robbie Curry whose entry lifted the Blue Ticket included a most eye catching example of Brian Duncan seedling No. 1596-(Dateline x Triple Crown). The perianth of which was two perfect triangles and very, very smooth to boot. Richard McCaw's entry included best division four - Marjorie Trevear. The 'vase of three' classes were all impressive; George Jordan's Poet's Way was awarded best bloom Division five -nine which he had included in his second placed entry in the division nine x three to a vase class.

The single bloom classes were all well supported; Maurice Kerr's first prize winners included White Star, Shandon, Cool Crystal, and his own seedling No.88/1/4 - 2W-GWP which indicates what can be achieved with well prepared "Golden Oldies" with a touch of his own breeding as well. W. Semple took first place in both the 3W-R and division four classes with Bright Spark and Gay Symphony respectively.

INTERMEDIATE SECTION

The number and quality of entries in this section - (and in the novice - were a most definite improvement on the 1994 season. R.Patton won best exhibit - Intermediate and Novice Sections- with a beautiful example of Soprano. Mrs. M.Semple's well staged Oykel and Bunting were worthy winners in their classes and James Smyth of Banbridge was successful in the Division Three - all white - class with Verona.

NOVICE SECTION

James Smyth won the collection of six class with his Golden Sheen - (large for the cultivar) and State Express impressing. Noel Thompson exhibited a colourful Sportsman while Spring Lawn - (a new name to me) - staged three well grown unnamed pinks.

LATE SHOW Sunday 14th May

A very well attended and supported show with the staging area an array of high quality blooms.

Robbie Curry's Notre Dame was judged best bloom in show against stiff opposition from Green Lodge- (Ballydorn), Gay Kybo (Brian Duncan) and Carole Lambard- (Richard McCaw). I was impressed with Richard McCaw's Portstewart, Kate Reade's seemingly endless supply of miniatures like Sun Disc, Sir Frank's very, very white Poet -9W-GWW/6/19 and Brian's very well presented Gay Kybo.

A most enchanting day; reasonable weather and a most beautiful venue. While we were there for the blooms and the "crack", the bonus of the natural surroundings completed our day. Soft, rolling hills, yachts gliding silently over the shimmering water, the plentiful wildlife and the delightful cuisine provided by our hosts Mr. & Mrs. Nial Watson.

More's the pity that some of our guests from the rest of the United Kingdom, The Republic of Ireland and from more distant shores had already returned home and were not there to enjoy it also.

John McAusland.

Derry and District Horticultural Society

Spring Show

Saturday 13th April 96

Staging Friday 3 - 7.30pm.

St. Peters Church Hall

Open Saturday 9 to 12 noon

Culmore Road

Dublin Report

SOUTH COUNTY DUBLIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SHOW
Dalkey 1st April, 1995.

The "Open" class in recent times, normally a battle between Michael Ward and Ian Erskine, was this year a one horse race. Michael was away for the two Dublin shows having taken a lengthy visit to South Africa.

Ian, however, filled all classes as if it were a "competition" and his twelve were Torridon, Chief Inspector, Broadway Village, Ben Ledi, Silversmith, King's Grove, Magna Carta, Surrey, Gunsynd, Pontes, Fiji and Broomhill.

Flowers that were particularly good were Gunsynd as best bloom; Silversmith, Ben Levi, and King's Grove.

It was nice this year to have an early show.

R.H.S.I. SHOW. Dublin 8th April 1995

This show, held for the second year at the excellent Taney Parish Centre Dundrum in the Southern suburbs, was again a demonstration of showing daffodils attracting such comments as "were they ironed before they were staged", "were they all grown under cover" (well about six were grown in pots).

Ian again staged a 12 x 3 and a 12 x 1, plus the usual single blooms. The Richardson entry was Red Haze, Silver Surf, Gold Convention, John Ballance, Red Marahal, Surrey, Polar Imp, Seedling (Bunclody x Torridon), Torridon, April Love, Seedling (Golden Vale x Dateline), and Cyros.

Best bloom was a very smooth Cairngorm taken from

the front garden and entered in the 12 x 3 class. Other excellent blooms were Gold Convention, April Love, Honeybird, Surrey, and the best Solferique I have yet seen.

In general, this was a three week period of very unseasonable stable weather, allowing a wide choice of blooms for both shows.

It was a bad year for Rainbow, all of which came ribby.

The difference between Northern and Dublin grown blooms of some varieties is interesting e.g. Broomhill in the South has a straight cup, yet at Coleraine had a roll in it. Empress of Ireland, difficult to grow large in the South, is very large in the North and with a tremendous roll to the trumpet.

In all, an interesting season with most blooms finished by 18th April (Pipe Major and Silverwood just opened)

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness and a sense of loss that we report the recent death of Mrs. J. Abel Smith, of Orchard House, Letty Green, Hertford. Mrs. Abel Smith a member of our group - was keenly interested in daffodils, and on a number of occasions travelled over to our shows. We shall miss her wise counsel and good company.

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The Finishing Touches

by Richard Smales.
Barnsley

While in Northern Ireland for the Belfast Show, I overheard a remark which has puzzled me ever since. It went something like this " After all the success he's had, he's still as keen as ever to win"

My natural reaction as a Yorkshireman is that to win is the reason for taking part, but with daffodils it goes deeper than that. A show is maybe the climax of years of effort. Unless we give it our all in those final hours - attention to every little detail - we do ourselves and our flowers an injustice.

It is on the show bench that blooms gain recognition and awards, not in the garden or seedling bed, and to make the transition from garden to show bench require the skill approaching that of growing. It's called staging.

This is an illusive skill possessed by certain individuals who can take a bloom and flatten out the creases, clock it and give it poise, until it looks at the judge and says "Here I am"

Look at the winning exhibits in London, Solihull, Harrogate and Belfast and the petals are flat, at '12 o'clock', held square to the stem and looking straight ahead. The Daffodil Society give 3 out of 10 for form and poise while the R.H.S. give 3 out of 25 for poise alone. I understand from Steve Vinisky that they are even keener on poise in the U.S.A. and if you are staging in a test tube there is little room for manoeuvre!

Nothing looks worse than a row of blooms with bowed heads that aren't clocked. I'm no expert, but techniques in storage, transport and staging to get those heads up - without setting the stem back at 45 degrees! Clocking has become a necessity. At the end of the day if it will not clock - do not spoil the collection with it.

Similarly techniques for smoothing the petals, making the cup round etc. It's a very personal thing. Some use brushes, others

use their fingers, but all the modern masters since John Lea are not only gifted hybridists and good growers, but very accomplished stagers. Hence their progeny succeed.

There's an analogy with other forms of showing, for instance poultry. You can have the best cockerel in the world, but unless he sticks his chest out and holds up his head for the judge, he will never win anything.

You may say that's fine for the top people but what about our 'run of the mill' or 'bread and butter' stuff? Well it is just as relevant as my experience at Solihull illustrates.

The Williams cup is for 6 yellows. I won it in 1994 and wanted to enter again. Unfortunately some flapping netlon had strafed all my yellow trumpets and blackened the buds. I struggled to pick what I had and took them along.

On the way to Solihull on the Friday afternoon we picked up Brian Duncan at Birmingham airport and took him to the show. Once there I chose the best yellows for 2 collection classes and put six dregs loosely in bikinnis for the Williams. Brian had time to spare and offered to help and the six yellows were nearest to him. Inside 20 minutes the petals were opened out, they were clocked, and they all looked the same way. Fifteen hours later they won the Williams against 14 other entries. I doubt if I could have achieved this on my own.

Staging then, is something that nobody can neglect and most of us can improve upon, but there are some negative aspects. Firstly, it can be overdone. We have all seen perianths pressed back to almost cyclamineus proportions and stems so long that you need to stand on tiptoes to look at the flowers.

Secondly we must learn to be a little circumspect when looking at the offerings from the professional growers. We can buy the bulbs and spare nothing in the growing, but unless we can match them in staging techniques our blooms will never look as good as their's.

DAFFODILS in GEORGIA

Dr. Susan Raybourne
Macon
Georgia.

Growing daffodils in Georgia is a challenge. The middle of the state is about the most southerly place in the United States where all twelve divisions can be grown. Further south doubles are impossible and trumpets and div. 3's are almost as difficult.

The growing season is short so not only are the stems short and blooms smaller but also late bloomers tend to blast in the heat. Just this week someone stopped me at work and wanted to know why the double daffodils that looked so nice in the catalogue had never bloomed for her. (Actually if we ever need doubles or 3's for a collection we will treat them for about six weeks in the refrigerator before planting.) To put spring temperatures in perspective, when I was a child I thought my mother's rule about not going barefooted outdoors before April was ridiculous. As I write this article on October the 26th, it has gotten below 50 degrees F for the first time since spring but is expected to be back up in the seventies by the afternoon. This summer has been one of the hottest that I can remember with many days of temperatures over 100 degrees F but fortunately quite dry. Last year was much cooler but with monsoon like rains, and bulb losses were quite high.

Ah yes the other big problem of warm climate growing - basal rot. This causes the loss of many trumpets and many whites. most of us keep records of what is lost to Fusarium so that we can avoid other varieties with similar pedigrees. My major goal in hybridizing (no, nothing far enough along to have bloomed yet) is to extend the number of varieties that will thrive here without having to be coddled excessively - things that my non daffodil addicted friends and neighbours might grow. I do not pamper the seedlings but let natural selection work for me.

The soil type here is clay to the extent that there are several companies in the brick making business in town. This soil type extends up through the northern part of the state. Just below Macon where JayDee Ager (soon to be president of the A.D.S.) lives, the soil is much more sandy. I grow my best bulbs in raised beds 9 inches high in which the soil has been extensively amended with sand, sand and more sand. I also add pine bark mulch which is slow to break down and is an inexpensive local product.

See, now aren't you glad you're growing your bulbs in a daffodil - friendly climate?

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EDITORIAL

A newsletter such as this depends for its survival on the members of the group being prepared to contribute articles and to stick to the deadlines set so that the content may be typed and then assembled into the form that we are so used to. This edition was held up as I was initially busy in work with an inspection but when time came available I found that there had been little produced in the line of copy. After several phone calls I have eventually managed to gather enough material to produce this copy. If we are to continue to produce a newsletter which lets our more far flung members keep in contact with the developments here at home we must produce the articles to the deadlines set so that we establish once again our pattern for publication of spring and autumn.

I apologise to all for the late arrival of this edition and the fact that we have not concluded as promised the rest of Jan Pennings article but hopefully this will be included in the spring edition. I thank John McAusland for his show reports which make up the bulk of this edition, to our other contributors and to Richard our secretary for volunteering to look after the library of books and articles which are mentioned elsewhere. The System for the borrowing of books is outlined with the published list and if any members would like to donate any other books or material please contact Richard.

Once again I appeal to all to contribute articles so that we may build up a bank of material for publication. This is an excellent time of the year, having finished bulb planting, to sit down by the fireside and jot down a few notes on which you could possibly build an article for publication. We also need good colour photographs and or slides of interest to those of like mind as ourselves. Without your help we as an editorial team cannot hope to keep on publishing. You do not have to be an author to produce worthy articles.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you the seasons greetings hoping that you will receive this in time for Christmas.

N.I.D.G LIBRARY

The following list of books, magazines are all held by our secretary Richard McCaw. If you wish to borrow any book or article please contact Richard who will normally bring them to the next meeting of the group by prior arrangement where you will be asked to sign that you have borrowed it and then when you return your signature will be required again.

<i>TITLE</i>	<i>Author</i>
A Handbook of Narcissus	E. A. Bowles
Daffodils and Narcissus	M. J. Jefferson - Brown
The Daffodil Handbook	A.D.S. George S. Lee Jnr.
Miniature Daffodils	Alec Gray
Handbook fo Growing, Exhibiting and Judging Daffodils	American Daffodil Society Inc.
The Daffodil Society Show Handbook	
Narcissus Pests	Ministry of Agriculture Bulletin No. 51
Agriculture in N. I.- includes pests of Narcissi - The Narcissi fly	S. J Martin HNC - June 84
Agriculture in N. I.- includes pests of Narcissi -	
Stem and Bulb Nematode	-McKenny HNC- July 84
Daffodils to Show and Grow - an abridged list of Daffodil names	
Classified catalogue and price limit guide.	
R. H. S. Daffodil Yearbook	1913
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New material welcome.